

MOBILE COUNTY

Honorable Pamela K. Millsaps

Mobile County Courthouse
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Turner Sims
Jack Tillman
Bobbi Jo Trammel
John Tyson, Jr.
Tyrone Walker
Rhonda Waltman
Chaplain Terry Wigley
Barbara Williams
Mary Zoghby

Executive Director: Cynthia Weaver

Council Priorities

- 1. Friends who engage in problem behaviors in order to prevent and reduce underage drinking, marijuana use, violence, delinquency, school drop-out, and teen pregnancy among Mobile's 2006 – 2010 priority population of 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and their adult caregivers.**
- 2. Family management problems.**
- 3. Reduce barriers to the screening and referral for treatment of children and youth with mental health, mental retardation, or behavioral disorders to avoid unnecessary and expensive incarceration or other inappropriate placements.**

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Child care subsidies for low income parents

Action Steps

- 1) Request legislative advocacy by the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs.

Increase the use of evidence-based curricula in early care settings

Action Steps

- 1) Work with providers to develop funding opportunities for training and curricula costs associated with best practice early care models identified in the Mobile "Communities that Care" 2005-2010 Action Plan, such as but not limited to High Scope, The Incredible Years, and Starting Early Starting Smart.

Parent training and support

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage the use of evidence-based parent training, such as the HIPPIY program, Even start, and other evidence-based parent training models, as well as in-home family support workers.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Transportation

Action Steps

- 1) Carlton Malone, DYS representative to the Mobile Children's Policy Council, will join the Envision Mobile Transportation committee. Mr. Malone will share with Mobile Children's Policy Council feedback regarding transportation barriers with the Envision Mobile Transportation committee, as well as bring information back to the Mobile Children's Policy Council regarding the on-going work of Envision Mobile Transportation committee.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

After-school activities and supervision

Action Steps

- 1) Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand after-school programming using evidence-based life skills models identified in the "Mobile Communities that Care" 2005-2010 Action Plan.
- 2) Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand mentoring programming to reduce this risk.
- 3) Continue to work with the nonpublic schools participating in the Mobile CTC process to establish evidence-based life skills programming with the CTC priority population of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in school-based settings.

Alternative education

Action Steps

- 1) Maintain, strengthen, or expand proven effective life skills programming with high-risk students attending alternative schools, such as but not limited to POINTE Academy, the Continuous Learning Center, and the C.I.T.Y. program.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Underage drinking

Action Steps

- 1) Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand after-school programming using evidence-based life skills models identified in the Mobile "Communities that Care" 2005-2010 Action Plan.
- 2) Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand mentoring programming to reduce this risk.
- 3) Continue to work with the nonpublic schools participating in the Mobile CTC process to establish evidence-based life skills programming with the CTC priority population of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in school-based settings.

Barriers to the screening and referral for treatment of children and youth with mental health, mental retardation, or behavioral disorders must be overcome to effectively provide early intervention services that prohibit unnecessary and expensive incarceration or other inappropriate placements

Action Steps

- 1) Support cross-systems partnerships to make mental health screening and treatment available in non-traditional settings, for example, on site in school systems.

Improve access to dental care for special needs children

Action Steps

- 1) Develop a list of providers

Substance-use during pregnancy is a problem behavior with long-term negative consequences. Teen pregnancy continues to be a problem behavior in Mobile

Action Steps

- 1) Maintain and strengthen evidence-based efforts to reduce teen pregnancy in Mobile County, and establish for expanding these efforts into un-served or underserved areas of the county.
- 2) Maintain and strengthen evidence-based efforts to reduce substance-use among pregnant or parenting teens, and establish support for expanding these efforts into un-served or underserved areas of the county.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Poor family discipline

Action Steps

- 1) Service providers maintain, strengthen, and expand evidence-based parent training and parent education models recommended in the Mobile "Communities that Care" 2005-2010 Action Plan, such as but not limited to Parents Who Care, Positive Action, and CASA Start.

Early intervention: poor family discipline

Action Steps

- 1) Maintain, strengthen, and expand the use of evidence-based family therapy models recommended in the Mobile 2005-2010 "Communities that Care" Action Plan, such as but limited to Brief Strategic Therapy.
- 2) Support cross-systems partnerships to identify and refer high-risk students and their caregivers for proven effective family therapy. One example of such cross-systems collaboration is the District Attorney's "Helping Families Initiative," working with the Mobile Mental Health Center and Mobile County Public School System to identify high-risk youth through school suspension data and link them/their families with appropriate treatment modalities.
- 3) Support a focus on Mobile's "Communities that Care" (CTC) priority population 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, when possible.
- 4) Link with in-state practitioners of the Parent Project to find out more about this promising approach.

Lack of local programs for juvenile delinquents

Action Steps

- 1) Support public/private partnerships to implement proven-effective family therapy interventions with this extremely high-risk justice-involved population.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Attacking someone with the intent to harm is one of Mobile's top three priority youth problem behaviors

Action Steps

1) Maintain, strengthen, and expand cross-systems partnerships designed to identify and refer high-risk students with suspensions for violence and other serious problem behaviors for case management and evidence-based behavioral interventions.

Intervention: Attacking someone with the intent to harm is one of Mobile's top three priority youth problem behaviors

Action Steps

1) Maintain, strengthen, and expand accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel (juvenile court.)

Policy Recommendations

- State funding sources should require the use of evidence-based prevention/intervention models or award additional "points" for applications that use such proven effective models.
- These same funding sources should designate training and curricula costs associated with best practice models as approved budget expenditures.
- Support development of a cabinet-level, cross-systems partnership to design a standard of care for youth offenders with mental health disorders
- Increase childcare subsidies for low-income families to access licensed childcare.